

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
 :
 Yukihiro MATSUMOTO et al. :
 :
 Serial No.: 09/883,266 :
 :
 Filed: June 19, 2001 :
 :
 For: PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR WATER- :
 ABSORBENT RESIN :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Table 2 on page 37 of the specification to read

Table 2

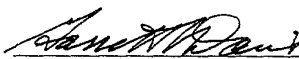
	Surface-crosslinked water-absorbent resin powder	Water absorption capacity (g/g) without load	Water absorption capacity (g/g) under load (4.90 kPa/1.96 kPa)	Liquid permeation quantity (g) under load
Example 7	Water-absorbent resin powder (7)	26	24/26	525
Comparative Example 6	Comparative water-absorbent resin (6)	26	24/26	465
Example 8	Water-absorbent resin powder (7)	26	24/26	-
Comparative Example 7	Comparative water-absorbent resin powder (7)	26	23/25	-
Example 9	Water-absorbent resin powder (9)	42	25/38	-
Comparative Example 8	Comparative water-absorbent resin powder (8)	40	22/35	-
Example 16	Water-absorbent resin powder (16)	43	25/38	-

REMARKS

The present amendment revises Table 2 to correct an inadvertent error. The last line of Table 2 should refer to Example 16 instead of Example 10. This amendment is consistent with Example 16 on pages 42-43 of the specification, which states that the results of the example are shown in Table 2. The original Table 2 of the Japanese text as originally filed is correct. Accordingly, these amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed.

Prompt and favorable examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 17, 2001

Table 2

	Surface-crosslinked water-absorbent resin powder	Water absorption capacity (g/g) without load	Water absorption capacity (g/g) under load (4.90 kPa/1.96 kPa)	Liquid permeation quantity (g) under load
Example 7	Water-absorbent resin powder (7)	26	24/26	525
Comparative Example 6	Comparative water-absorbent resin (6)	26	24/26	465
Example 8	Water-absorbent resin powder (8)	26	24/26	—
Comparative Example 7	Comparative water-absorbent resin powder (7)	26	23/25	—
Example 9	Water-absorbent resin powder (9)	42	25/38	—
Comparative Example 8	Comparative water-absorbent resin powder (8)	40	22/35	—
Example 10 16	Water-absorbent resin powder (10) (16)	43	25/38	—

The measurement methods for the data of Table 2 are as follows:

Water absorption capacity under load:

The water absorption capacity of the water-absorbent resin powder for physiological saline solution under a load of 50 g/cm² (about 4.90 kPa) or 20 g/cm² (about 1.96 kPa) was measured in accordance with the methods as disclosed in the working examples portions of EP 0885917, EP 0811636, and USP 6207772B, namely, in the following way.

An amount of 0.900 g of water-absorbent resin powder was allowed to absorb a physiological saline solution over a period of 60 minutes in a state where a load of 50 g/cm² (about 4.90 kPa) or 20 g/cm² (about 1.96 kPa) was uniformly applied to the water-absorbent resin powder, and then the weight W2 (g) of the absorbed physiological saline solution was measured with a balance. From this weight W2, the water absorption capacity (g/g) under the load was calculated in accordance with the following equation:

water absorption capacity (g/g) under load

$$= (W2 \text{ (g)} / \text{weight (g) of water-absorbent resin powder}).$$

Liquid permeation quantity under load:

With a measurement apparatus of Fig. 1 used, 0.900 g of water-absorbent resin